Establishment of Milk cooperatives

453. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to establish milk cooperatives on Anand pattern in other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the areas identified to establish such milk cooperatives in each State; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to monitor so that the high quality of milk is produced and provided to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Under Operation Flood 23 States/Union Territories are covered for establishing Milk Producers' Cooperatives in the country. Till September, 1994, 68,896 Anand Pattern milk cooperatives were formed with 87.8 lakh farmer members in 170 milksheds covering 267 districts. By the end of Operation Flood-III project there will be 70000 Anand Pattern Cooperatives through out the country. All the potential districts of the country have already been covered and no new district/State has been identified under Operation Flood.

(c) Quality of milk is monitored under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

Industry Status to Agriculture

454. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to grant the status of an industry to agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which it is likely to benefit the farmers;

(c) the details of steps taken in this regard and the progress made so far; and

(d) if not, the time by when the final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (d) The draft Agriculture Policy Resolution prepared by the Government seeks to create a positive trade and investment climate for agriculture at par with industry. The objective is to develop effective systems and bestow similar benefits on agriculture as exist in industry. This would help in creating favourable economic climate for increasing farmers' own investments and efforts for development of agriculture, thereby increasing their income levels.

The Resolution was placed in Parliament on 14.5.93.

Guarding the interests of small fishermen

455. SHRI E[illegible]ARI BARIK Will the Mini[illegible]GRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps are being taken by Government to guard the interests of small fishermen;

(b) if so, the details thertof; and

(c) the guidelines issued to the State Governments and coast guards in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the steps taken to protect the interests of small-scale fishermen include:

(i) enactment of Marine Fisheries Regulation Act (MFRA) by some of the maritime States, on the basis of a model bill circulated by the Government of India for protecting the interests of the traditional fishermen and conservation and management of coastal marine fisheries

(ii) enactment of Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by

Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981, for regulating fishing by foreign flag vessels within the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and for matters connected therewith;

(iii) implementation of programmes for development of coastal marine fisheries by the traditional/small-scale fishermen through motorisation of traditional craft, introduction of off-shore non-trawl type of pelagic fishing craft, introduction of ply craft, etc. by providing the requisite financial incentives in the form of subsidy;

(iv) supply of High Speed Diesel Oil with subsidy equivalent to the value of Central Excise Duty to mechanised fishing vessels below 20m. size for offsetting a part of the operational cost;

(v) implementation of welfare oriented programmes for upliftment of the socio-economic status of fisherfolk such as Group Accident Insurence Scheme for active fishermen; Development of Model Fishermen Villages including housing and saving-cum-Relief Scheme, etc.

(c) (i) Necessary guidelines have been issued to the Coast Guard for regulating the operation of foreign flag vessels under charter and joint venture programmes within the Indian EEZ and to carry out surveillance of the Indian waters preventing poaching by the foreign fishing vessels. As per the guidelines issued, the clearance of Coast Guard is necessary for permitting the operation of fishing vessels under charter/joint venture programmes.

(ii) The deep sea fishing vessels are prohibited to operate within 12 Nautical Miles on the east coast and 24 Nautical Miles on the west coast. Guidelines to this effect have been issued to all the Maritime States/Union Territories.

Fisheries in Orissa

456. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a considerable scope for development of marine inland and brackish water fisheries in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in that regard during the Eighth Plan period;

(c) the schemes under the consideration of the Central Government and at the State level pertaining to the development of fisheries;

(d) the steps taken to expedite clearance to those scheme; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Scheme are being implemented during the Eighth Plan period for development of marine, inland and brackish water fisheries in Orissa:

1. Fishery Harbour Facilities at Major Ports.
2. Providing Fishing Harbour Facilities at Minor Ports.
3. Freshwater Aquaculture.
4. Integrated Brackish water Fish Farms Development.
5. Development of Coastal Marine Fisheries:
   (i) Motorisation of Traditional Craft
   (ii) Introduction of offshore pelagic intermediate fishing craft.
   (iii) Reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on HSD oil.